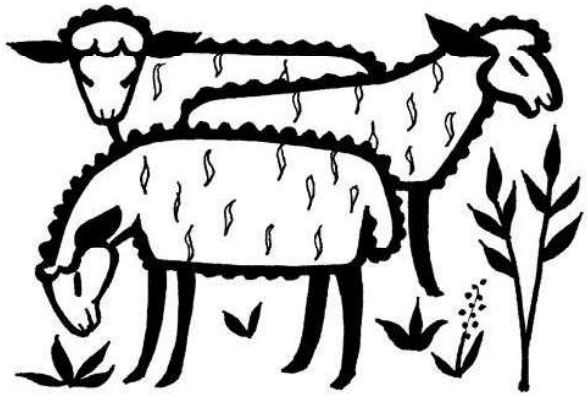
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Guiding our journey of faith.

November 22, 2026
Worship with Holy Communion
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
10:00 a.m.

Rev. Samantha Perret, Presiding

Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially our visitors. We invite you to return and worship with us again.

Hymns are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service Book and Hymnal (red book).



+ GATHERING +

Welcome and Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Music by Barbara Mase

***Gathering Hymn:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* **ELW:** *#634*

*Greeting
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us pray.

C: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ WORD +

Reading for us today is: Lisa Rapisarda

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father,

inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *O Christ, What Can It Mean For Us* ***ELW:*** *#431*

***Apostles' Creed**
Let us confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing prayers with us today is: Sharon Samoska

Prayers of Intercession:

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need, especially for those on our prayer list below, all whom we send cards through our Care Card Ministry, on our prayer tree, and those we now name in our hearts or with our voices… [*Current prayer list: Gail Schaffner, Mark A., Paul Kondash, Valerie Barkus, Hanni Ferck, Kelly B., Sandra, Sister Margaret, Sigrid, Hans, Julia D., Katie M., Rosemarie K., Sara W., Suzanne G., Pete Connolly, Robert Sharon, Rena A., Brandy G., Mary Anne Thulin, Ellen Cady, Jennifer I. and family, Ann B., Katie T., Andrea W., Ruth Karmelowicz, Jodi E., Carolyn E., Barbara Croft, Andrea C., Rick and Lona B., Chris C., Tina S., Carly, Pat M., Francesca R., Melvin V.*

Jr., Melvin V. Sr., Mary Y, Brittany, Barbara S, Joshua, Luna, Elaine W, Jim C, Arlene S, Judy J, Jacky A, Eva B, Shawn Y, Candie L, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you are the source of goodness, and we thank you for the blessings you bestow upon us, especially these blessings we name here now…God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

+ Meal +

*Offering Prayer
A: Let us pray,
C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in

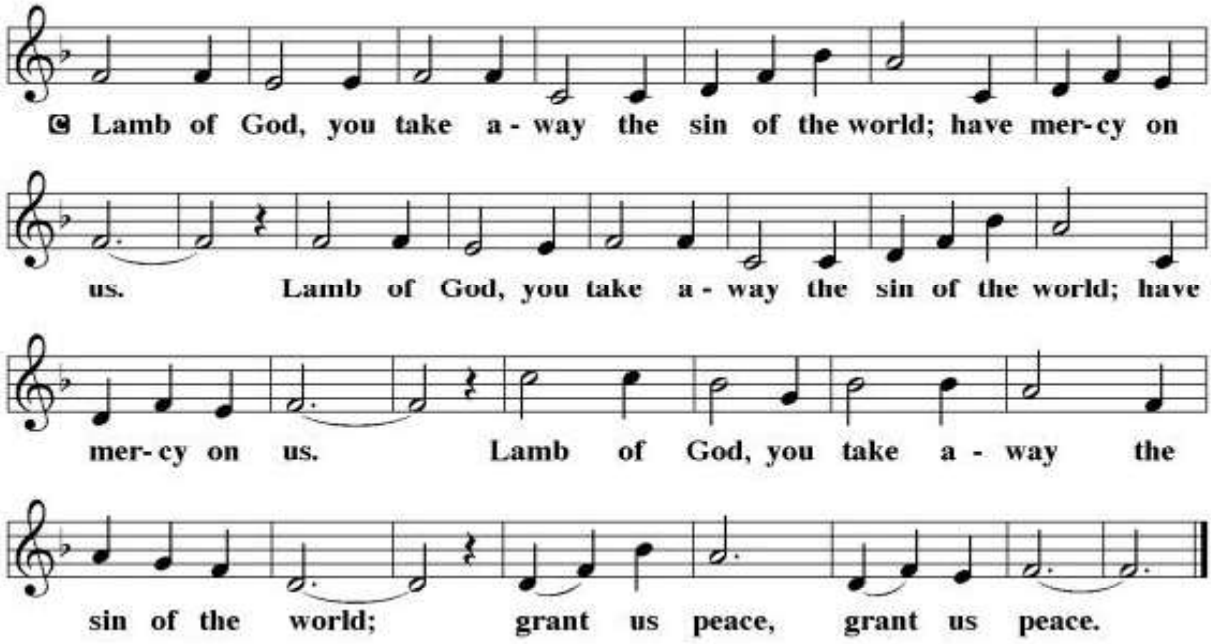
all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



Assisting with Communion today is: Sr. Carol Weaver

Communion Distribution: This is the Lord's table, and **all** are invited to participate in this banquet of life.

*Post Communion Blessing
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.
A: Let us pray.
C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ SENDING +

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: *Crown Him With Many Crowns* **ELW:** *#855*
P: Go in peace, share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God.

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A Little About Me – Nikki Osborn
I'm excited to be joining the team as the new Office Assistant! I'm originally from Ohio, but throughout the years, I've lived in several different places, including Michigan, Oregon, Maine, Pennsylvania, and most recently, Key West, Florida. I'm a proud military spouse to my husband, Troy, who is active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard. We have three daughters: Grace, Leah, and Fiona. In my free time, I love spending time with my pup, cooking, watching football, and I love snow! I'm excited to be here and I look forward to getting to know everyone!

Attendance at Worship on Nov. 15: We had 16 church members and 2 non-members attend our church last Sunday. This was the lowest number

since I started keeping count at the end of August. Please help us to never have it that low again.

Advent materials will be available during coffee hour for children, and we have some devotional booklets for adults. Christmas crafts will be available the first Sunday in December.

GWIM Food Pantry Needs: ***Non-perishable food items:*** *BOTTLES OF SALAD DRESSINGS (these 3 kinds—RANCH, FRENCH, ITALIAN). JARS OF GRAVY, CANNED CORN, CANNED GREEN BEANS. HAMS FOR CHRISTMAS, TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING.* ***Special Holiday Need:*** *GWIM gives out 600 gift bags during the holidays and needs DESERT SNACKS (SUCH AS LITTLE DEBBIE OR HOSTESS OF CAKES, BROWNIES), JELLO SNACK PACKS, FRUIT CUPS, BROWN PAPER LUNCH BAGS. GWIM staff thank you for supporting and caring.*

- **Thanksgiving Dinner:** Waterbury Elks, November 26, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (283 West Main Street)--all are welcome. Turkey Give-Away: November 24.

Altar Care Volunteers:
11/22: Janine & Seita
11/29: Charmaine & Delphine
12/6: Tish & Janine
12/13:Sieta & Charmaine

Hospitality:
11/22: Charmaine & Tish

Council Members:
- Becky Armington - President
- Charmaine Lawton - VP
- Blanche Feero/Lisa Rapisarda - Secretary
- Pat Huesch - Financial Secretary
- Arnold Arnajallum
- Dolly Caldwell
- Bob Melnick

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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To welcome all into safe, sacred relationship, as the Spirit works through us to embody God's love and grace in the world.

